

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION

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PATENT NO. : 7,196,785
APPLICATION NO.: 10/630,734
ISSUE DATE : Mar. 27, 2007
INVENTOR(S) : Nishiyama et al

It is certified that an error appears or errors appear in the above-identified patent and that said Letters Patent is hereby corrected as shown below:

On the title page, cancel the text beginning with "A foreign" and ending with "control unit." and insert the following abstract:

(57) ABSTRACT

A foreign matter monitoring system comprises: a production management system which manages the processing of workpieces in a manufacture line; foreign matter monitors mounted as on-machine equipment in plural process processing apparatuses of the manufacture line, said foreign matter monitors each having an optical head containing an illuminating optical system for irradiating a workpiece with light and optical system for receiving reflected and scattered light from the workpiece and converting the received light to a detection image signal and an A/D converter for converting the detection image signal, which is obtained through conversion by the detecting optical system, to a detection digital image signal; and a base system having a control unit for acquiring control information, a buffer memory for storing said detection digital image signal which is acquired from each foreign matter monitor, a database storing inspection recipes each associated with a foreign matter monitor and an image signal processing unit used for, based on a detection digital image signal associated with a foreign matter monitor and acquired from the buffer memory, judging whether foreign matter and other defects are present on a workpiece according to an inspection recipe which is selected for the corresponding foreign matter monitor based on control information from the control unit.

MAILING ADDRESS OF SENDER (Please do not use customer number below):

Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus, LLP
1300 North Seventeenth Street, Suite 1800
Arlington, Virginia 22209

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.322, 1.323, and 1.324. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1.0 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **SEND TO: Attention Certificate of Corrections Branch, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.**

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It is certified that an error appears or errors appear in the above-identified patent and that said Letters Patent is hereby corrected as shown below:

On the title page, cancel the text beginning with "A foreign" and ending with "control unit." and insert the following abstract:

Column 2, line 61, "a" should read --an--.

Column 2, line 62, "detecting" should read --illuminating--.

Column 4, line 10, "a detecting" should read --an illuminating--.

Column 4, lines 26 and 27, "a detecting" should read --an illuminating--.

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Column 21, line 10, cancel the text beginning with "A system" to and ending with "control unit" in column 21, line 47, and insert the following claim:

1. A system for monitoring foreign matter comprising: a manufacture line having plural process processing apparatuses; a production management system which manages the processing of workpieces in the manufacture line; foreign matter monitors mounted as on-machine equipment in said plural process processing apparatuses, said foreign matter monitors each having: an optical head containing an illuminating optical system for irradiating a workpiece with light and optical system for receiving reflected and scattered light from the workpiece and converting the received light to a detection image signal; and an A/D converter for converting the detection image signal, which is obtained through conversion by the detecting optical system, to a detection digital image signal; and a base system having: a control unit for acquiring control information including information identifying each foreign matter monitor, process processing information and workpiece information, the process processing information and the workpiece information being acquired from the production management system; a buffer memory for storing said detection digital image signal, which is acquired from each foreign matter monitor, in association with the corresponding foreign matter monitor; a database storing inspection recipes each associated with a foreign matter monitor; and an image signal processing unit used for, based on a detection digital image signal associated with a foreign matter monitor and acquired from the buffer memory, judging whether foreign matter and other defects are present on a workpiece according to an inspection recipe which is selected for the corresponding foreign matter monitor based on control information from the control unit.

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